

A

## REVIEW

OF THE

## STATE

OF THE

## BRITISH NATION.

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 Tuesday, March 29. 1709.
 

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I Made an Essay in my last on this Subject, at the Terms of a Peace; and since the Eyes of all Europe seem to be more particularly bent that way at this Time than usually, I think, it may not be amiss to go on with it here, whether it goes on abroad or no.

The *French*, we are told, have made Overtures of Peace; whether they are such as the Confederates think a sufficient Ground of a Treaty, does not yet appear, it rather looks as if they were not.

And if not, then either the *French* Affairs are very ill represented to us, or the *French* must be infatuated to a strange Degree.

If what we have seen, and what we have heard be true; nay, I may say, if half what we have heard be true, the *French* are distracted,

that they do not offer what we could not in Reason refuse; If they have suffer'd their Soldiers to starve, and their Officers to be naked and miserable this severe Winter; If they have suffer'd Mutinies and Tumults in their Garrisons, for Want of paying the Troops; if they are fain to borrow Money of the Frontier Towns to keep the Soldiers to their Duty; If on their Musters, their Captains are oblig'd to be seen at the Head of their Company, and 15 to 24 Men are the Number of the Foot to a Company; If the Horse are dismounted, and the Passants of the *Pain Conquis* furnish Horses instead of Taxes, to mount the Dragoons; if their Recruits are raw, starv'd, and half-grown Youths; if their Bankers are broke, and the publick Bills at 50 to 60 l. per Cent. Discount;

Discount; if their Councils are divided, and their Generals at Variance one with another—— In short, if they are in a general Want of both Men and Money, and the Men they have will not fight—— On the contrary, if our Army is larger, and in better Condition than ever, our Augmentations ready and made up of old Troops, and all our Auxiliaries drawing together—— If these Things are so, and really there seems to be a Face of Truth upon every Part of it, tho' perhaps common Fame according to common Practice may enlarge Things in Degree—— What Spirit of Infatuation possesses the French Court, that they do not yield to an Honourable Peace, that they do not offer what they know we will accept; for they know well enough what the Confederates will be content with, and what they will not be content without.

I know it may be objected, that the French, not making such Offers as they know the Confederates cannot make Peace without, is a Token they are not in so ill a Condition as we suggest—— And if the French had not more than once been infatuated in this War, this might be true—— What they flatter themselves with, I know not; but if their Men behave no better this Year than they did last, of which I see very little Probability—— I see nothing can hinder the Confederate Army from ruining their Affairs in one Campaign more—— And if we enter France in full March, they must fight us in the Field, or come upon their Knees, and beg what Peace we please to bestow.

From these Reasons I cannot but note, that I think, all the vast Preparations of the French, and the good Face they put upon their Affairs in *Flanders*, is only an Outside, and that they will offer you a compleat Peace, when they come to the Point—— I see but one thing they have for it, besides this Offer, that can relieve them, and that is, some very brisk Attempt in the first of the Campaign on the Side of *Alsace*—— Had they a pushing General on that side, and but 35000 Men to take the Field by the Middle of *April*, they might indeed penetrate far into the Empire, and perhaps keep back the Troops of *Hesse*, *Saxony*, *Wurtemberg*, &c. But this, tho' it would raise

their Spirits a little, would not retrieve their Affairs; *Lisle* is too near *Paris* to let them be easie; if they are heartily push'd at home, all their remoter Successes must fall and come to nothing.

And what is the Peace we will accept now if they offer it?—— For this is the main Question—— The whole Spanish Monarchy, says the Parliament, or if I may put it into Words, the Treaty of the Pyrenees—— When the Treaty of *Nimeguen* was begun, it held a long Debate, whether it should be founded on the Treaty of the Pyrenees, or of *Aix la Chapelle*—— And the French once offer'd the First, with the Exception of *Burgundy* and *Franché Comté*. But some time after Successes rais'd them to refuse that Offer, and at last they had all the *Plais Conquis* conceded to them, as may be seen by that Treaty—— Which tho' call'd the Treaty of *Nimeguen* abroad, was in Burlesque call'd the *Petticoat-Peace*, as being clasp'd up in *Portsmouth's* Closet, if *Andreaz Marvel* is to be believ'd, and Sir *William Temple* almost acknowledg'd it.

I think, if ever the Confederates had an Opportunity to retrieve all the disadvantageous Treaties of those Times, to unravel all the Court Fraud, which by French Money, French Whores, and French Councils were transacted here in those Times; by which all the Princes of Europe were aw'd and manag'd, and which indeed help'd to raise the French Greatness to the Pitch it has since been at; IT IS NOW: ALL THE Chicanry of that *Petticoat-Peace*, all the French Shams of Devolution-Right; by which he seiz'd *Burgundy*, *Franché Comté*, and *Luxemburgh*, after he had by Oath relinquish'd all Manner of Claim to the Succession of any Part of *Spain*, at his Marriage; in short, all the Advantages of all Treaties, whetein he has been often too hard for us, and all the Advantages of a Series of 40 Years Successes, may be now unravel'd and retriev'd—— And therefore if the French are not beaten into a Temper to submit to such a Peace as Europe wants, we must fight it till they are—— And we must have some Disappointment this Summer, which no Body expects, if one Campaign more does not bring them to it.



I laid down a Scheme of Preliminaries, upon which, I think, we ought to have a Peace; and which if the *French* would comply with, I doubt not a Peace would be soon made up—— I did say, rather than not treat at all, and rather than more Blood and Money should be expended, I should plead for some Abatements—— But pray, Gentlemen, do not mistake the Word, I am for abating nothing of the *Spanish Monarchy*—— What I shall enter upon, amounts to only stating the Term, the *Spanish Monarchy*, that we may understand one another when we speak of it; whether it shall be understood of the *Spanish Monarchy*, as it was at the Beginning of this War, or as it was at the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, for I think the Word is left indefinite, as we now talk of it, and even in the Parliament's Address.

If the first of these be understood, I confess, I am not so fond of the Peace, as I am the Way I propose it. If you will understand the latter of them, and *France* yielded the main Article, I would abate any remote reasonable Thing, rather than not make a Peace, since the Monarchy of *Spain*, so restor'd, would restore *Burgundy*, *Franche Comte*, and the Provinces of *Artois*, *Hainault*, and *French Flanders* commonly call'd *Les Pays Conquis*; and it is so absolutely necessary to have these, that I think no safe Peace can be made without them—— The Peace must be so establish'd; as that we may leave no Room for another War. We have gone thro' this, far beyond what our Enemy, or indeed we our selves ever thought us able to do—— But we shall not leave our Posterity so able to embark in another War, as we were when we began this—— Therefore this Peace must be Safe as well as Honourable; indeed if it is not Safe, it is not Honourable.

It seems to me therefore absolutely necessary, that the *French* be effectually unharbour'd in *Flanders*, he should not have one Inch of Ground to set his Tyrannical Feet on in the *Spanish Netherlands*—— And if there is any Difficulty to beat him out, or to treat him out, yet it must be done one way or other; for while he has Possession of so many Strengths there, he will be always a Terror to the Confederates,

and will always have Power enough left to attack the weak ill-mannag'd *Spaniards*—— But if these Places are restor'd, his Talons will be clip'd, his Nails par'd, and his Neighbours safe.

This makes the Parliament's Address to the QUEEN for the demolishing the Fortifications of *Dunkirk*, very just, for Towns of such Strength are unsufferable Yokes upon the Necks of Neighbours, and this War must leave no such Advantages in the Enemy's Hand.

We are to consider, that when the War is over with us, we always disarm and disband, we have no Tyrants, and consequently keep up no Face of Tyranny, no Terror of Subjects; and Bridles to Liberty—— *French Government* is quite another thing; he reigns by what some call Divine Right, *Anglice*, the Sword, and he will always have his Armies ready; and therefore it is absolutely necessary, not only to take these Towns out of his Hands, but to have them in the Hands of our Friend. Then let the King of *France* keep 200000 Men in Pay, if he pleases.

I think, this Reason for divesting *France* of the whole *Pays Conquis*, is unanswerable; for a Barrier of that Strength is a sufficient Security, and less than that would not be a sufficient Security to the *English* and *Dutch*. Then you have the *French* at a due Distance, and we can never be surpriz'd by them; *Flanders* will be a Wall of Brass, which he can never break through till the *English* and *Dutch* may have sufficient Time to arm for their Defence—— *Naples* and *Sicily* are Trifles to these—— And therefore I still say, the Word *Spanish Monarchy* must be explain'd to mean as it was at the *Pyrenean Treaty*, or else you must have the *Low Countries*, with *Burgundy* and the *Franche Comte* out of the Hands of the *French*, whatever Equivalent you yield for them—— And this is what I mean by Abatements, which I hope, no Body can object against.

Some People are very busy to fright us again with a Notion of the *French* arming for a new Invasion, and I was once a going to mention something of it in these Papers; but when I lately saw an Account of the Forwardness our Fleet was in, and that we had



had 27 Sails of English and Dutch Men of War riding at St. Helena, and 9 in the Demers, besides other Places: I think, I need say no more to any Body that is apprehensive of those Things, but bid them read the *Sayettes*, and let them be satisfied, let our Condition in *Scotland* be what it will, while we have 40 Men of War at hand, the King of France knows better than to make any more such Wild Sea Voyages.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

THE REPORT has been industriously reported, that *SIR WILLIAM ALEXANDER* Her Majesty's OCCURDIST, is Dead; and notwithstanding that Mistake, by some Unhappy Pretenders to Cures in the Eye, has also maliciously reported, That *alcohol* the said *SIR WILLIAM*, be Living, and in perfect Health, &c. his Head shalby, and his Eyesight shalby, so that he can perform his Cures. These are to satisfy the Publick, That these Reports are all false and groundless; and that the said *SIR WILLIAM* will perform the Operation of Couching of Cataracts, for the Cure of any other Distempers incident to the Eyes, against any Pretender to that Art. He that performs it with the finest Address, Sreadiness of Hand, Ease to the Patient, Expedition, and most Success, out of as many as they please to name, for a Hundred Guinea's an Eye, with either Hand, as the Cataract requires.

He would not have inserted this, but by the Advice of some Persons of Note, who have been Bar-witneses of those great Abuses; and he hopes this, and his Success of above 70 that he has Couched lately; (some of them Persons of Quality) who are ready to attest the same) will be ample Satisfaction to the Publick.

He may constantly be apply'd to at his House in *Durham Yard* in the Strand, London, all the Summer: Where the Poor are Couch'd of Cataracts by him gratis.

Just publish'd,

THE SCOT'S NARRATIVE Examined; Or, the Case of the Episcopal Dissenters in Scotland stated, and the late Treatment of them in the City of Edinburgh enquir'd into: With a brief Examination into the Reasonableness of the grievous Complaint of Persecution in Scotland, and a Defence of the Magistrates of Edinburgh, in their Proceedings there: Being some Remarks on a late Pamphlet, Entitled, *A Narrative of the late Treatment of the Episcopal Ministers within the City of Edinburgh*, &c. Sold by A. Baldwin in *Warwick Lane*.

Just publish'd,

QUACKERY Unmask'd: Or, Reflections on the sixth Edition of Mr. Martin's Treatise of the Venereal Disease, and its Appendix; and the Pamphlet call'd, *The Charitable Surgeon*, &c. Containing a full and plain Detection and Refutation of some gross Errors, &c. of those Authors: Interspers'd with many new and useful Observations concerning the Venereal Disease; and the Method and Medicines proper for its speedy, safe and effectual Cure. Proper Remarks on Mr. Martin's Admirable Medicine, and his infallible Preservative. A full and true Account of Quacks, and their Method of Practice. An Account of some excellent Medicines, &c. Highly necessary to be read by all Venereal Patients, who would prevent their own Ruin, and by all Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, who are here vindicated from Mr. Martin's Aspersions. By J. SPINKER, Licens'd Practitioner in Physick and Surgery. London Printed and Sold by D. Brown, without Temple Bar; G. Strahan, at the Golden-Ball in Cornhill; J. Woodward in St. Christopher's Church Yard in Threadneedle-Street; B. Barker at the White-Hart in Westminster-Hall; and the Author at his House, at the Golden-Ball, between the Sun and Castle Taverns in Honey Lane-Market, Cheap-side. (Price 1s.) 1709.